

Watershed Operations

August 2009

Investing in the East Yellow Creek Watershed, Missouri

Introduction

Funding for this watershed project will continue completion of construction of two small flood control structures. Project funding will provide additional environmental benefits and immediate contracts available for the local construction industries and associated businesses within the local community.



East Yellow Creek Watershed is located in Sullivan, Linn and Chariton counties.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.

Project Description

- **Location:** Sullivan, Linn, and Chariton Counties, 6th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$420,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$2,400

The East Yellow Creek Watershed Project plan consists of accelerated land treatment to control cropland erosion; construction of a series of single-purpose floodwater retarding dams; and construction of a multi-purpose dam for flood prevention, recreation, and water supply. To date, 59 of the planned 157 flood control structures have been completed or are under construction.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- East Yellow Creek Watershed District
- Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Linn County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Chariton County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Sullivan County Commission
- Linn County Commission
- Chariton County Commission
- Linn-Chariton Public Water Supply District No. 3
- Missouri Department of Conservation



This small flood control structure is similar to the structures needed in the Watershed to control soil erosion and reduce flood damages.

Investing in the East Yellow Creek Watershed, Missouri

Benefits

This project will have major environmental benefits on the watershed problems of soil erosion and flood damage. The watershed project is designed to reduce floodwater damage to 13,300 acres; reduce degradation to streams, wetland and floodplains; improve water quality; and provide quality habitat.

Economic Opportunities

Once completed, this project will provide \$1.2 million in average annual benefits. Major highways in the watershed cross or intercept the 100-year floodplain in numerous locations. Private and commercial transportation rely heavily on the ability of these routes to remain open for safety and commerce.

Statewide Perspective

Completion of this project will assist in maintaining the state's infrastructure of roadways and railways that are imperative to the success of these rural areas. Several major highways cross or intercept the floodplain in numerous locations linking several rural areas. Flood damages in these areas repeatedly impair water quality and threaten the state's fish and animal populations, including some endangered or threatened species. Economic opportunities for residents will be enhanced by the reduction of sediment left by frequent flooding and the addition of cropland erosion control on profitable agricultural lands.

For More Information

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To date, 59 of the planned 157 flood control structures have been completed or are under construction in the watershed. Recovery Act funds will allow the construction of two additional structures.

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